

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for processing a banknote, comprising:

providing a banknote having at least one photonicly active security feature, the banknote being moved along a conveyance path;

illuminating the at least one security feature with light from a stimulus source;

identifying a location of the at least one security feature by detecting an emission from the security feature;

directing an excitation source at the identified location;

illuminating the at least one security feature with light from the excitation source; and

detecting a further emission from the photonicly active security feature in response to the light from the excitation source.

2. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein the step of identifying includes operating a linescan camera having a scan axis that is parallel to a conveyance axis.

3. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein the step of identifying includes operating a linescan camera having a scan axis that is perpendicular to a conveyance axis.

4. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the step of identifying includes operating a single element detector to accumulate a line scan along the banknote at a same cross-axis location as a field of view of the excitation source.

5. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein the step of directing includes

delaying operation of the excitation source for a period of time that is a function of at least a speed of conveyance, and a distance between a illumination points of the stimulus source and the excitation source.

6. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the photonically active security feature is comprised of at least one thread comprising a substrate material and an electromagnetic radiation emitting and amplifying material for providing a laser-like emission.

7. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the photonically active security feature is comprised of at least one planchette comprising a substrate material and an electromagnetic radiation emitting and amplifying material for providing a laser-like emission.

8. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the photonically active security feature is comprised of at least one structure embedded within or disposed on the banknote, the structure comprising a substrate material and an electromagnetic radiation emitting and amplifying material for providing a laser-like emission.

9. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the detected further emission is comprised of an optical code for identifying at least one characteristic of the banknote.

10. (Currently Amended) A system for processing a banknote, comprising:

a conveyance for moving a banknote having at least one photonically active security feature along a conveyance path;

a stimulus source for illuminating the at least one security feature with light;

a first detector for detecting an emission from the at least one security feature in response to light from the stimulus source;

an excitation source disposed for illuminating the at least one security feature;

means coupled to the detector for identifying a location of the at least one security feature and for directing the excitation source at the identified location; and

a second detector for detecting a further emission from the at least one photonically active security feature in response to light from the excitation source.

11. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 10, wherein the identifying means comprises a linescan camera having a scan axis that is parallel to a conveyance axis.

12. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 10, wherein the identifying means comprises a linescan camera having a scan axis that is perpendicular to a conveyance axis.

13. (Original) A system as in claim 10, wherein the identifying means comprises a single element detector operating to accumulate a line scan along the banknote at a same cross-axis location as a field of view of the excitation source.

14. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 10, wherein the identifying means delays operation of the excitation source for a period of time that is a function of at least a speed of conveyance, and a distance between ~~a~~ illumination points of the stimulus source and the excitation source.

15. (Original) A system as in claim 10, wherein the photonically active security feature is comprised of at least one thread comprising a substrate material and an electromagnetic radiation emitting and amplifying material for providing a laser-like emission.

16. (Original) A system as in claim 10, wherein the photonically active security feature is comprised of at least one planchette comprising a substrate material and an electromagnetic radiation emitting and amplifying material for providing a laser-like emission.

17. (Original) A system as in claim 10, wherein the photonically active security feature is comprised of at least one structure embedded within or disposed on the banknote, the structure

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comprising a substrate material and an electromagnetic radiation emitting and amplifying material for providing a laser-like emission.

18. (Original) A system as in claim 10, wherein the further emission is comprised of an optical code for identifying at least one characteristic of the banknote.

Add the following new claims:

19. (New) Apparatus to process banknotes, comprising:

a conveyance for moving a banknote having at least one photonicly active security feature along a conveyance path having a conveyance axis;

a stimulus source for illuminating the at least one photonicly active security feature with light;

a first detector system for detecting an emission from the at least one photonicly active security feature in response to light from the stimulus source and for identifying a location of the at least one photonicly active security feature;

an excitation source coupled to an output of said first detector system and having an output for illuminating the at least one photonicly security feature at the identified location in response to the output from said first detector system; and

a second detector system for detecting a further emission from the at least one photonicly active security feature in response to light from the excitation source.

20. (New) Apparatus as in claim 19, wherein said first detector system comprises a linescan camera having a scan axis that is parallel to said conveyance axis.

21. (New) Apparatus as in claim 19, wherein said first detector system comprises a linescan camera having a scan axis that is perpendicular to said conveyance axis.

22. (New) Apparatus as in claim 19, wherein said first detector system comprises a single element detector operating to accumulate a line scan along the banknote at a cross-axis location that lies within a field of view of the excitation source.

23. (New) Apparatus as in claim 19, wherein said first detector system comprises an area detector for obtaining an image of at least a portion of the banknote, and where said first detector system comprises an image processing algorithm.

24. (New) Apparatus as in claim 19, wherein said first detector system delays operation of the excitation source for a period of time that is a function of at least a speed of the banknote along the conveyance path, and a distance between illumination points of the stimulus source and the excitation source.

25. (New) Apparatus as in claim 19, wherein said excitation source comprises a beam steering system that is responsive to the output of said first detector system.